Transport Directorates have been advised to enforce these standards.

(iv) The lead content in petrol has been brought down to a national average of 0.18 gramme per litre. It is proposed to reduce them further.

(v) Public awareness campaigns have been launched on various measures to prevent and control pollution from Vehicles.

(vi) More stringent norms for vehicular emissions have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules in September, 1993 which would come into effect from 1996.

(vii) Automobile manufacturers have been asked to develop and improve their technology to meet the more stringent standards for emissions from vehicles.

(viii) City planners are advised to incorporate in their plans the long-term requirements from vehicles.

The results of the steps taken to control automobile pollution in Nagpur has not been quantified.

(c) The Government does not propose to impose any restrictions or control over owning of vehicles in order to control pollution.

**Maintaining Ecological Richness of Malabar Region**

6618. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Malabar region is losing its ecological uniqueness with several of its animal and plant species rearing extinction due to international human activities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to preserve and conserve the ecological richness of the Malabar region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The ecology of the Malabar region is affected by the biotic pressures arising from increase in human and animal pollution and economic activities like construction of dams, roads, mining, etc. However, there is no report of the extinction of animal and plant species in the region during the recent past.

The Government has taken several measures to conserve the ecological richness of the region, which include:

— Establishment of a Protected Area Network consisting of a National Park, Wildlife Sanctuaries and a Biosphere Reserve;

— Enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

— Eco-development Plans for Sanctuaries and National Park; and

— Funding of Research Projects etc.

**Phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances**

6619. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India intend to phase out ozone depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons by the year 2010 and replace them by adopting an alternative, environment friendly technology; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) As a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that